PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

BULLETIN] JULY 11, 1942 [No. 103

THE PUDUKKOTTAI NATIONAL WAR FRONT

INAUGURATION

ON

JULY 10TH, 1942.

I

SPEECH

by

SIR ALEXANDER TOTTENHAM, C. I. E., ADMINISTRATOR, PUDUKKOTTAI STATE.

WE are here to-day to inaugurate the National War Front. The Front has of course started work. We have what was the War Information Bureau—rechristened the National War Front Bureau, and we have ten Branches. We have a State Chief Organiser, Town and Taluk Organisers and under them Leaders and Sub-Leaders in the different parts of the Town and in the villages. I am not sure, as I stand here, what progress has been made with the selection of these latter, but from what I have seen in the Diaries of the Organisers, I know that a good deal has been done. I am able to bear testimony to the good work that is being done by the Central

Bureau. As I said elsewhere, when we lost Captain Harvey's inspiration and drive, I felt somewhat doubtful how the Bureau might fare without him. But I need not have had any misgivings. No doubt, your Highness has read the weekly Bulletins published by the Bureau, and you have seen for yourself what an eminent Editor in Madras, writing to me recently, described as the high standard of quality that they have maintained. Every credit is due to Rao Sahib N. Tyagaraja Aiyar for this. The Chief Organiser, Mr. Seturama Aiyar has brought characteristic energy and enthusiasm to his task, and he has been well backed up by the Town and Taluk Organisers, and by the members of the various branches, all of whom I take this opportunity of thanking for the work that they are doing. One feature of our work is that it is entirely voluntary. No one draws anything more than Travelling allowance. The Central Bureau has now, I believe, about 100 voluntary lecturers. In the Branches (as I have heard for myself), there are eloquent persuasive and well-informed speakers. The Front is also non-official. It works under the auspices of the Darbar and the Darbar finance it, but it is in itself non-official and voluntary. I think, that is a fact in which Pudukkottai may take legitimate pride, and our warmest thanks are due to all these gentlemen. I should like here to say a word about our A. R. P. workers. Under the guidance of the Superintendent of Police as A. R. P. Controller, and the non-official and official A. R. P. Officers, with the assistance of numerous Wardens, Messengers and others, and of the Police whom I must not forget, they have reached a remarkable degree of efficiency, having regard to the limited objectives that we set before us, and the extent to which they have disciplined and instructed the public has exceeded my expectations. They are not all voluntary, since there are a certain number of whole-time jobs, but a good many of them are, and to all of them, paid and unpaid, I desire to offer my thanks on behalf of the Darbar and the public. I hope Your Highness will see an Air Raid Practice one day. Mr. Martin, our Inspecting and Advising Officer, was much pleased with the work here.

Now as to the course of the War, things have gone badly in Libya, and Russia. I am not afraid of the word 'defeat', and the losses of Tobruk and Sevastopol are local defeats. All that I wish to say is that these are episodes, important episodes, and very unpleasant ones. But do not dwell unduly on episodes. Though they may delay the end of the War, the losses of Tobruk and Sevastopol are not the end of the War. Look on these black days as giving you an opportunity to show your courage and your confidence in the final result. Look at the War as a whole. Compare the position now with what our position was when France fell and we stood alone against Germany. Look at the Powers now arrayed on our side. Great Britain, Russia (the undefeatable), the United States, China who for five years has held Japan at bay. On our side (excluding numerous minor nations) are populations numbering over one thousand three hundred millions. On that of Germany, there are 223 millions, including 45 millions of Italians who are more a burden than an asset. Think of the colossal losses of the Germans in men and machines. The Russians have no doubt lost heavily too, but they have an inexhaustible reservoir of man-power. The man-power of the United States is practically untouched. The losses of the British Empire have been comparatively small. Look at the combined power of the British and United States Navies. Look at the industrial power of the United States, Britain and Russia. Take a long view and consider the general trend of events. Can you doubt on which side Victory will lie? But I must not forget the National War Front. The scope and objects of this will be explained to you by His Highness. They do not seem to be properly understood by everyone yet. Some people seem to imagine that it is only intended for "Leaders" whereas, of course, it was intended to include everyone who liked to join. Others regret their inability to join owing to "other engagements." I don't know what engagement could be more important than doing however little to help in this cause. Evidently, there are people about—and people in responsible positions—who do not yet realise

the seriousness of the struggle in which we are engaged, but want to go about their own, probably petty, affairs, as though we were not at War at all. This is one of the classes of people whom the National War Front should try to get at, to instruct, and to convert to a saner view. They are the indifferent, a very dangerous and unwholesome element in our Society.

As I have already said, the Front is already at work, and it is doing good work. It was desired to inaugurate it formally, and it was felt that no one could do so more suitably or effectively than Your Highness. It is my privilege to ask Your Highness formally to inaugurate the Front.

II
SPEECH
by
HIS HIGHNESS THE RAJA OF PUDUKKOTTAI.

IT is a great pleasure to me that on my Birthday I am inaugurating the National War Front in my State of Pudukkottai. The National War Front has been well styled a mobilisation of the will to win. The Will, that is, to Win this War. This means that all who belong to the Front have to cultivate, and prompt others to cultivate, the right spirit, a spirit which not only will not admit the possibility of defeat, but will go far beyond that and be determined to do everything that can be done to make defeat impossible and Victory certain. It is of no use merely to be complacently confident and to say that the Allies cannot be beaten, without making any effort to ensure the defeat of our enemies. Such over-confidence is as dangerous to the cause which we all have at heart, as can be undue pessimism and defeatism. We can have a quiet confidence that Victory is bound to be ours, but that confidence must be based on the determination of each one of us to do all that he can towards the achievement of Victory.

And so, I appeal to all of you who love your country and your State—that is, to all those whom I now see before me—to join the National War Front. Its promotion is not a political movement, neither for all that it is officially encouraged, is it an official one. The Front is one in which all should bear a part, who wish their country to be saved from the domination of a ruthless and unscrupulous foe. Factious feeling and political theory should alike be discarded, and all should join the Front with a united Determination to make a common effort. As you all know, the present war is not being fought merely by the armed forces on land and sea and in the Air. Our enemies have also made, and are making use of the more insidious weapons of propaganda and what are now called Fifth Columnists, though they can better be described by the older name of 'traitors'. It will be the duty of all members of the National War Front to counteract the efforts of enemy propaganda and to frustrate anything that is in any way suggestive of treachery. The traitor, at a time when his country is not being invaded, will probably himself be mainly a propagandist, who seeks to make out that the enemy is invincible and, at the same time, to preach the advantages which would result to India were the Japanese to gain the mastery over her. He will also set himself to spreading alarmist and depressing rumours in such a way as will make it difficult to trace their origin. The National War Front will have to combat such rumours and point out that no value can be attached to idle talk that is based on no solid foundation, and it will also have to show, from the experience of other countries, what would be the real consequence of a Japanese victory. Some there may be who think that it is vain to oppose a strong and well-prepared enemy, not because they are traitors, but because they are possessed of a weak-kneed pessimism. Such people must be refuted and made to understand that they are giving way to a cowardice which is definitely unpatriotic. Members of the Front must at all times be ready to show that what is stated by the enemy over the wireless is not to be trusted, and that

experience shows that much of what is so stated is either utterly false or else a wilful distortion of the truth. They must therefore be well-informed as to the facts and be prepared to argue upon them with clearness and forcefulness.

It is not everyone who can join up with the armed forces. But those who are capable of joining up should be encouraged so to do. There are also a number of other ways in which those who are not actual combatants can help in prosecuting the war to a successful conclusion. For instance, there is A. R. P. work. Though fear of an immediate air raid, even as that of immediate invasion, is less at the moment than it was a short time ago, that fear has not altogether vanished, and there still remains the chance that we may be attacked from the Air, and, if we are so attacked, it will be suddenly. We must have people who know what to do in such an emergency and how to do it, and who will keep their heads and be ready and willing to help others even at their own risk. Another way in which any one can help is by being careful of his expenditure not spending money on what is unnecessary, but saving it for investment in War Savings Certificates and the several War Loans. There is also the matter of Growing More Food. The problem of providing sufficient food is always a serious one in war time, and it is one that is likely to become more and more serious during this war, the longer the war continues. Any cultivator who contrives to raise more food crops than he was growing previously will be making a valuable contribution to the War Effort.

The course of this war has emphasised the importance of having the best weapons and the best military appliances of all kinds. But even to have these is not enough. However good the gun, it depends for its full efficiency on the man behind it. And he, in his turn, will do his job all the better, if he knows that he has the full confidence and practical support of the men who are behind him. It is the members of the National War Front who constitute this backing. I ask you all, therefore, to give him the support which he requires, in full measure and

without reservation. Knowing the past history of Pudukkottai, I have the confident assurance that I am asking of you what you are willing and eager to give. And so, I commend the National War Front to you with the sure belief that you will make of it an outstanding success.

FIFTH ANNIVERSARY
OF
CHINA'S WAR OF RESISTANCE.
MESSAGES.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT.

"Your arms and our arms will force back the enemy. You, the people of China, and we, the people of the United States, and the peoples of the other United Nations will fight on together to victory and for the establishment of peace, justice and order throughout the world."

Mr. CHURCHILL.

"Five years ago Japan launched her treacherous attack on your country. For five years you have, in spite of suffering and disappointment, maintained the United Front against aggression.

The world has watched with admiration the mighty efforts made by China not only on the fields of battle, but also in the sphere of reconstruction.

Both China and the British Commonwealth have known what it is to stand alone against the aggressors. To-day, we are fighting side by side against our common enemy, and with us to-day we have the tremendous resources of the United States. Each of us has his part to play. War in Europe and in the Middle East is as much a part of the defence of China as the war in the Far East is a part of the defence of Britain.

We are determined to extend to the Chinese people every material, moral and spiritual help in our power. Of our ultimate victory we are sure.

When it is won, the present association, which has laid the foundations of lasting friendship based on mutual confidence and respect, will secure peace and justice to all peoples of the world."

GENERALISSIMO CHIANG KAI-SHEK.

"We have become the vanguard of the forces opposing aggression. The whole world recognises our position as a champion of international justice and understands the value of our spiritual strength. The moral ascendancy we have acquired is such that no force or strength can ever shatter it. It is a guarantee for our victory and an all-important factor in our reconstruction.

"At this moment, we are at the turning point in our war of resistance. Patriotism demands from us sustained sacrifices. Irrespective of age or sex, we must each contribute to the all-important task which, when completed, will bring victory and permanent security to a free world."

AMERICA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY

(*July, 4*)

I

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT'S MESSAGE

"Never since it was first created in Philadelphia, has this anniversary come in times so dangerous to everything for which it stands. This Independence Day is being celebrated by turning out death-dealing tanks, planes, guns and ships.

"Not to waste one hour, not to stop one shot, not to hold back one blow—that is the way to mark our great national holiday this year.

"Free men fight desperately and die to preserve the liberties and decencies of modern civilisation. This day will be a tonic and inspiration to the tough and grim men who fight for freedom in this dark hour."

II

BROADCAST

by

Mr. George Merrell

U. S. Charge d' Affaires in India.

"We should be un-American if we were not proud of our achievements as a nation, if we were not happy in the independence that we have won and sustained.

"Our greatest pride to-day, however, is that our independence as a nation has been translated into national unity and national strength, and that this strength can now be put at the disposal of other nations who are likewise defending themselves against the Axis marauders.

"We feel that to-day we may celebrate our own Independence Day with perhaps less concentration on the past and more attention to the future, than ever before in our history. It is not enough that we recount the saga of past achievements. It is not enough that we glory in a possession once attained.

"We have come to know that our independence, our true freedoms, our essential liberties, are qualities of the mind and soul and that society can be sustained only through their exercise and through their defence. Liberty is not a thing that can be achieved once and then forever be forgotten. The price of true liberty is continuing self-sacrifices, continuing devotion, continuing vigilance."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

4—7—42 to 10—7—42.

Egypt.—Rommel's attempt to break through El Alamein, though persisted in, for more than a week, has ended in a slight set-back. On Wednesday last he launched three attacks on the area but after a feeble break through to Bir Elshein, was forced to retreat on Thursday three or four miles, leaving the British lines intact. A fresh attack, made on Friday, on the El Alamein area gained him no foothold. On Saturday, a gun-battle ensued along a 40-mile front in the northern sector, at the end of which the enemy fell back and his transport was seen to retreat westward, presumably to pull itself out. On the same day, Axis forces were expelled from the El Alamein ridge, which the enemy had hoped to pierce through, to reach Alexandria. On Sunday and Monday fighting continued south of El Alamein, when one strong enemy point was taken and the enemy himself was driven back west of the line running due south of El Alamein. On Monday, there was little activity, except that Allied mobile columns had been feeling their way round and behind, the enemy's flank.

Enemy positions at present run about 20 miles due south of El Alamein and 30 miles due west towards El Daba, in the shape of a reversed '*L*'. Rommel is digging in. An unexpected, 'unnatural' calm prevails, but it is a lull which will soon be broken.

The first phase in the Battle of Egypt is now over. The Eighth Army, after many days and nights of bitter, critical fighting has

seized the initative. All enemy attempts to break through have been beaten off and the Afrika Korps, far from being allowed to rest or recuperate, has been subjected to incessant flank attacks.

Reviewing the situation, '*Annalist*' wrote on the 6th:—'Ground for fresh hope continues to be afforded by the military situation in EGYPT. Apart from the main fact that Rommel has made no progress since the first attack on the British positions at EL ALAMEIN and has, in fact, slightly lost ground, a number of indications shows that we are slowly, but perhaps surely, doing better. Rommel's losses in guns and tanks, so far from his base, are serious.

Moreover the two points in the battlefield that he has had to give up—the ridge running east and west along the north side of the Quattara depression, and the strong point lost by him, as reported in to-day's (6th) communique are of consequence and may be a prelude to further German losses.

'Our superiority in the air is unquestionable and may prove decisive.'

Russia.—After eight months of heroic resistance SEBASTOPOL fell on Saturday, but not before the enemy had lost a hundred thousand men. The fall of SEBASTOPOL will not substantially alter the Russian naval position in the Black Sea. There is NOVOROSSISK for a substitute and KOSSA TUSIA, which lies in the Kerch Straits, has been newly fortified.

The fall of SEBASTOPOL has not only removed a threat to the enemy's southern flank but set free large forces for assaults on other sectors. So the fall of the fortress has been followed quickly by fierce Nazi thrusts in the KURSK-BYELOGROD and VOLSHANSK sectors, the objective being the MOSCOW-ROSTOV Railway. The enemy is reported to have broken through at a point in the KUPYANSK sector and approached VORONEJ. Bitter fighting rages west of VORONEJ, 120 miles east of KURSK and south-west of STARY OSHOL nearly 70 miles, south of KURSK. Fighting has also flared up near ROSTOV on the direct route to the CAUCASUS. The Germans are attempting to push on to the River Don to cut off the Russian southern defence system from the northern. According to the latest reports the Russians are resisting at the water-line of VORONEJ and at STARY OSHOL where the Nazi forces advancing from BYELOGROD are trying to break through and join at the VORONEJ front; STRAY OSHOL has been evacuated; the

Germans have established bridgehead on the Don though the main fighting still takes place to the west of the river. A savage battle is raging near ROSOCH 110 miles south of VORONEJ. The situation is grave.

Generally, the whole eastern front from LENINGRAD to ROSTOV is now a volcano, which may become active at any point. Last week the Germans made an attack on GZHATSK, with shortlived success, and in the KALININ and SMOLENSK areas—these are described technically as 'psychic', they are largely 'preventive', defensive and exploratory. It will be wrong however not to recognise that the German offensive is gathering momentum over the whole area.

China.—The Japanese summer offensive has begun and Chinese strategy will continue to avoid decisive battles till Allied help accumulates. During the week IHWANG city in KIANGSI and WUCHANG in SUIYAN were taken and retaken. The Chinese also opened counter-attacks in the TAIHANG mountains. YUNGKA, in CHEKIANG was recaptured.

A number of air successes by U. S. planes is recorded. A gun-boat and ten planes were destroyed at HANKOW; and 50 sea planes at WUCHANG and 20 planes at CANTON were also attacked; of the last only 5 escaped destruction.

The A. V. G. has been formally disbanded and inducted into the U. S. Army Air Force in CHINA.

Burma.—The R. A. F. attacked enemy shipping in the Mayu River near AKYAB and troop concentrations at KALEMYO near the Chindwin River.

American pilots celebrated their Independence Day by an air raid on KWASON near AKYAB.

The Pacific.—U. S. Army and Navy aircraft were engaged in reconnaissance and attack missions on the ALEUTIANS, whenever the weather permitted. On June 21 and 28, bombs were dropped on KISKA. In July Japanese transports were attacked off the Island of AGATTU—about 35 miles to the south-east of ATTU. On Independence Day Allied aircraft carried out mass raids in South-west Pacific—especially on LAE and SALAMUA.

Air-raids.—BREMEN, the second largest air-port in GERMANY was raided a second time and large fires were started. For the first time

American Air-men, in conjunction with the R. A. F. took part in offensive operations over occupied EUROPE. Low level daylight attacks were made on VALKENBERG, ALKMAR and HAMSTEDE in HOLLAND.

Naval.—(1) A British convoy crammed with supplies made its way, unhurt, to MALTA, attacked between SARDINIA and SICILY by enemy's dive-bombers and submarines. The enemy lost 20 bombers and probably a submarine also, in the action.

(2) *Von Tirpitz.*—GERMANY's most powerful battleship was torpedoed by a Soviet submarine in the Barents Sea and seriously damaged, when she tried to intercept a convoy. This compelled the ship to withdraw and take refuge in the fjord where she had come from.

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES.

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies
29—6—42. (Monday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
DAY:—				
	The railway yards at HAZEBROUCK.		5 planes.	3 planes.
NIGHT:—				
	BREMEN and **other places** in **North-West** GERMANY. **Enemy airfields** in occupied territory. **Railway targets** in Occupied FRANCE. **Shipping** off the FRENCH coast.		9 planes.	
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	Enemy concentrations of motor transport and tanks near MERSA MATRUH. **The harbour area** at TOBRUK. **Enemy aircraft on the ground and vehicles in the** TOBRUK and SOLLUM area.	1 pilot safe.	2 planes.	
	RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
	Air combats along the entire front.			
	FAR EAST. (By American and British planes).			
	No information available.			
30—6—42 (Tuesday).				
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
	No information available.			
	LIBYA. (By British planes).			
	Enemy concentrations in the battle area.			
	Motor transport and landing grounds in FUKA.			
	The harbour and shipping at BENGHAZI.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
30—6—42 (Tuesday)—cont.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
The air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire front.			
FAR EAST—TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
DILLI	Fires started.		
CELEBES. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodrome at KENDARI.			
NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Police barracks, dispersal areas and shipping in the harbour at LAE.			
The Isthmus area at SALAMAUA.			
SOLOMON Islands. (By American and British planes).			
TULAGI and **BOGAINVILLE.**			
1—7—42 (Wednesday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Landing grounds at SIDI BARRANI.	Many more planes damaged.	7 planes.	
Concentrations of enemy tanks and armoured vehicles in the battle area.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats along the entire front.			
FAR EAST—TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
Military installations at DILLI.			
2—7—42 (Thursday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
BREMEN in North-West GERMENY. **Enemy airfields** in the LOW COUNTRIES. **Enemy shipping** off the DUTCH coast.	}	13 planes.	3 anes.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy concentrations south of EL ALAMEIN.			
TOBRUK.			
Enemy's rear in the battle area.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and grounded aircraft along the whole eastern front.			
FAR EAST—TIMOR (By American and British planes).			
DILLI.			
3—7—42 (Friday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy troop and vehicle concentrations behind the enemy lines.			
Shipping at BENGHAZI.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats along the whole battle area.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
The aerodromes at LAE.			
TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy aerodrome at KOEPANG.			
4—7—42 (Saturday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
NIGHT:—			
Laying mines in enemy waters.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
Enemy concentrations of tanks and armoured vehicles south of EL ALAMEIN.			
TOBRUK.			

ALLIED Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied COUNTRIES—*cont.*

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Allies	Aircraft losses for Enemies
4—7—42 (Saturday)—cont.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats along the entire battle front.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Aerodrome and runaways at LAE.			8 planes.
SALAMAUA.			
TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
KOEPANG.			
BURMA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy shipping on the MAYU river near AKYAB.			
5—7—42 (Sunday).			
GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE. (By British planes).			
No information available.			
LIBYA. (By British planes).			
The harbour at BENGHAZI.			
Tanks and armoured vehicles in the battle area.			
RUSSIA. (By Russian planes).			
Air combats and aircraft on the aerodromes along the entire front.			
FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA. (By American and British planes).			
Enemy military installations at LAE and SALAMAUA.			1 plane and 4 more damaged.
TIMOR. (By American and British planes).			
DILLI.			
SOLOMON Islands. (By American and British planes).			
TULAGI.			

ENEMY Air Raids over ALLIED Territories.

Date. Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies.	Aircraft losses for Allies.
30—6—42 (Tuesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
DAY :—			
East MIDLANDS.			
NIGHT :—			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		1 plane.	
EGYPT. (By German planes).			
ALEXANDRIA area.	No damage but 20 casualties.		
1—7—42 (Wednesday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
PALESTINE. (By German planes).			
HAIFA.			
2—7—42. (Thursday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
No information available.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.		8 planes for July 1st & 2nd.	7 planes.
EGYPT. (By German planes).			
ALEXANDRIA area.	Very slight damage.		
3—7—42 (Friday).			
BRITAIN. (By German planes).			
NIGHT :—			
Coastal districts of EAST ANGLIA.			
MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			
EGYPT. (By German planes).			
British positions in the EL ALAMEIN area.			

ENEMY Air Raids over Allied Territories—*cont.*

Date.	Targets.	Damage caused by air bombardment.	Aircraft losses for Enemies	Aircraft losses for Allies.
4—7—42 (Saturday).	**BRITAIN. (By German planes).**			
NIGHT :—				
A point on the South-east coast of ENGLAND.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.				
	PALESTINE. (By German planes).			
HAIFA.				
	NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
PORT MORESBY.			1 plane.	
5—7—42 (Sunday).	**BRITAIN. (By German planes).**			
No information available.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.				
	EGYPT. (By German planes).			
ALEXANDRIA and **SUEZ** Canal area.				5 planes.
	NEW GUINEA. (By Jap planes).			
PORT MORESBY.				
6—7—42 (Monday).	**BRITAIN. (By German planes).**			
No information available.				
	MEDITERRANEAN. (By German planes).			
MALTA.			1 plane.	
	FAR EAST—NEW GUINEA (By Jap planes).			
Port MORESBY.		Several bombers damaged.		

SIDE LIGHTS.

THE NATIONAL WAR FRONT : FORMAL INAUGURATION AT PUDUKKOTTAI. 'We are here to-day to inaugurate the National War Front. The Front has of course started work. We have what was the War Information Bureau—rechristened the National War Front Bureau, and we have ten Branches.........It was desired to inaugurate it formally, and it was felt that no one could do so more suitably or effectively than your Highness. It is my privilege to ask your Highness formally to inaugurate the Front.'

With these words Sir Alexander Tottenham, Administrator of the State, opened the proceedings of the inauguration of the National War Front for the State. The hall where the meeting was held, was filled to over-flowing. A big procession, nearly a furlong long, which had started an hour earlier

from the premises of the N. W. F. B. headed by an imposing array of the A. R. P. Staff wound its way up the principal streets to the Town Hall to swell the attendance. It was altogether an impressive and happy occasion, coinciding as it did with the birthday of His Highness.

'I am not afraid,' said Sir Alexander, in the course of his observations on the War, of the word 'defeat.' 'Tobruk and Sebastopol are local defeats.' Look on these black days as giving you an opportunity to show your courage, and your confidence in the final result.........Look at the War as a whole......Look at the Powers now arrayed on our side......Look at the man-power of Russia......Look at the naval and industrial might of Britain and the U. S.: Take a long view and consider the general trend......Can you then doubt on which side Victory will lie?'

Declaring the Front inaugurated, His Highness described that it was 'the movement for the *mobilisation of the Will to Win.*' 'It was not a political movement', he added, 'neither for all that it is officially encouraged, is it an official one. The fifth-columnist, in fact and deed, a traitor, 'at a time when his country was not being invaded would probably be mainly a propagandist, who seeks to make out that the enemy is invincible. Combat this treason, exhorted His Highness, combat 'weak-kneed pessimism', 'this undue defeatism', join the armed forces if you can —join the A. R. P., save and invest; grow more; support the men in the firing line with your confidence. 'Knowing the past history of Pudukkottai His Highness concluded, I have the confident assurance that I am asking of you what you are willing and eager to give'.

We have no doubt as to PUDUKKOTTAI's response to the call. She will be true to her tradition; she will serve and labour in the great cause.

We publish the full text of the speeches in another part of the bulletin, and here tender thanks for the Administrator's generous appreciation of the work of the Bureau and the Bulletin.

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NATIONAL WAR FRONT IN BRITAIN.

In ENGLAND, to-day richmen pay 95% of their income-Tax; every one has cut down his consumption of vital commodities by about 70%; their travelling by 30% and their necessities by 25%. The following extract taken from a B. B. C. talk by Mr. J. L. Hodgson gives a picture of the work of BRITAIN's home-front.

"We have already repaired more tonnage than we did in the whole of the last war. There are ships sailing the seas to-day that the Germans have claimed to be sunk; and indeed some of them have been sunk. I saw one looking taut and trim that lay at the bottom for nine months...... she was raised from the dead as it were.

"I found a yard turning out a 10,800-ton cargo ship in just under five months, when in normal days the time needed was nine months. I found another yard turning out 16 fine ships a year, when in peace time that yard produced only 12. A third yard has knocked a fortnight off the time required to build a collier. A fourth yard had a 30 per cent better output in 1941 than it had in 1940 and this year will be better still.........

"I met all sorts. A man bending ship's plates—a very highly skilled job—had worked as a gardener and baker for 19 years. A cinema attendant is now an electrician's mate, a red-leader was a rag-and-bone merchant, a boxing promoter is now a shipyard labourer, and so it goes on. In addition, there are the women. **Women are driving small cranes, they are doing the simpler welding jobs, they are labouring in the joiner's shop, they are painting.............. Men sometimes work as much as 34 hours on end with no stops except for meals. That is not usual of course, but to work shifts, one on top of the other, is fairly common on this repair job.**

"The same is true of warship construction and repair. In British naval dockyards men are working 12 hours every weekday and on three Sundays out of every four. In addition, every man has to spend 24 hours of every four weeks training for Home Guard duties. Yet tens of thousands of them still volunteer to spend one night in every eight fire-watching!"

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A SPRING OFFENSIVE THAT FAILED. When earlier in the year JAPAN marched from success to success in the east there was an expectation that her German partner would start a simultaneous offensive in the west in order to divert and distract the Allies and divide their strength. But the spring offensive was still-born. The assassination of Heydrich, the transfer of Rundsdt to VICHY and Hitler's assumption of dictatorial powers over his own judiciary showed what Hitler's difficulties were. Something was rotten in the State of DENMARK: the occupied countries were in revolt; the German-owned Atlantic coast was in danger; Anglo-American legions were assembling on land and in air, while talks of a second Front engaged the attention of Allied statesmen and military chiefs. Even in the depths of winter the Russian drive had never ceased; and even in the foulest weather, in the coldest days the R.A.F's blows had never stopped. When spring came these attacks developed into Russian counter-offensives and British four-figure raids.

Foiled thus on both sides Hitler, with an eye to the main chance, probed for soft spots elsewhere. So, he started a war of nerves in TURKEY, which, thanks to the steadfastness of the Turks fell through. He tried diplomatic

bullying in VICHY, which, thanks to Anglo-American diplomacy never fully succeeded. He *blitzed* MALTA, but MALTA took it. He intercepted convoys in the Mediterranean and the Arctic, but the convoys got through.

Meanwhile spring had passed and the Japanese had also passed over their peak of success. COLOMBO, the CORAL SEA and MIDWAY had stopped Japanese expansion. This is the story of the spring offensive that never came to pass.

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THE SUMMER CRISIS. Summer has come and Hitler has launched his big pincer-offensives in EGYPT and RUSSIA. TOBRUK and SEBASTOPOL have fallen. But we make bold to assert that the campaign that Hitler has started is a Summer Crisis rather than a summer offensive, even as Hitler's successes during these three years nearly, have carried him no nearer to victory. Hitler, uncertain at home, is now faced with a crisis abroad. If he does not destroy—not merely push back—the Soviet army this summer, he will be destroyed—he and his confederates. The British blockade-noose is tightening round his neck. If he does not lift the blockade starvation will follow rationing. If he does not reach the Caucasus his *Luftwaffe* cannot fly. Rumanian oil-fields are now within the range of American bombers.

In EGYPT also, in spite of TOBRUK, Hitler's position is precarious, at any rate, the present situation is essentially different from what it was in 1940 when Graziani's march on EGYPT—cost ITALY her empire. In 1940, Graziani, if he had had the intrepidity of a Rommel, could have advanced much further than he did because in 1940 the British defence in EGYPT was not very much more than British courage. Graziani's attack also coincided with Hitler's *Blitz* over BRITAIN, when she had to fight on the home front for her very life.

To-day, if Rommel's thrust is much more powerful than Graziani's and better organised, the Allied situation also has comparatively improved. The Russian did not fight Hitler in 1940. American supplies and African supply routes did not exist then; Thirty Nations did not constitute Allied strength then: British reinforcements from IRAN, IRAQ and PALESTINE did not pour into EGYPT then.

Moreover British strength may now be further augmented at will. Such a convoy as recently reached INDIA and which no single Indian port could hold, might easily be passed up the Red Sea, if need be, for Auchinleck's relief.

Silently, but as certain as Hitler's defeat will be accomplished, the British defences grow. BRITAIN is not idle—MADAGASCAR, one of the bastions of the Cape Route, has been fortified.

TOBRUK may fall but will be retaken, because the Allied Strength is impressive, colossal and still growing. It is only a matter of time. Plans laid now will take a certain length of time to carry out, even as what happens now is the result of decisions previously taken. The British air arm which had to fight for its existence in 1940 is now able to fight in three Continents—it enjoys air superiority in EGYPT.

Allied Strategy continually planned and devised to meet new situations is being executed, so as to lead to Allied victory. But Allied Strategy, wiser than Hitler's is hard to follow. To-day, the battlefields may be in different places, but the battle is one only. A bomb dropped over Emden will arrest Hitler's advance in Russia, a new air-port built in MADAGASCAR will keep the Jap away from India; and a blow struck at an Axis Convoy in the Mediterranean would stop Rommel on his errand. Rommel's will be a short-lived triumph: his life-line is in the Mediterranean which BRITAIN can snap at any moment. She, like the Parcæ, holds the abhorred shears. Rommel's panzers may yet have a taste of Graziani's misfortunes in the land of the Sphinx. From the days of the Pharaohs, she has seen armies come and go—and perish. Her smile though inscrutable is deadly to the invader.

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TOBRUK. This will be the ultimate result and this may be stated while also admitting that the recent reverses in TOBRUK have been serious. It will be wrong not to learn the unpleasant events of the moment and not to face them squarely. TOBRUK, has depleted our strength for the present, especially in tanks. The possession of TOBRUK has shortened the enemy's supply routes and exposed British Convoys to Axis attacks in Eastern and Central Mediterranean. The routes to CYPRES and HAIFA are threatened. Rommel's drive so far as it is complimentary to Hitler's Caucasus drive is a threat to RUSSIA. Besides being a menace to the Nile and the Suez it also unlocks the door to East and South AFRICA and breaks the land barrier which keeps the Jap away. But as we have already shown Allied position was never stronger than it is to-day: it is much better than when Wavell, single-handed, beat hostile forces in LIBYA, ERITREA, SOMALILAND and ABYSSINIA. Our supplies are plentiful and our communication lines very near their bases. We possess undoubted superiority in air and guns, which should make the enemy hesitate.

It would also appear that we have turned the corner of our present reverses. Good news is filtering through; it is no longer 'bad', 'not bad', and 'not unsatisfactory'; to-day as we write these notes, it is 'satisfactory'—Rommel is slowing down—is being driven back—though ever so slightly; Rommel's chances of reaching the Nile now are 'somewhat diminishing'; Rommel has lost 'heavily in guns and tanks'; he has been forced out of Quattara Ridge.

EGYPT. The advance of Axis forces into EGYPT naturally raises the question of EGYPT's attitude to the War, which, though politically of a neutral character, continues to be democratic in its leaning and pro-British in sympathy. The Egyptian Chamber recently endorsed this policy by an overwhelming majority of 185 votes to 5, and on several occasions, Nahas Pasha, the present Premier defining EGYPT's policy in public has left the position in no doubt. Defending the arrest of Ali Maher Pasha for his pro-Axis tendencies Nahas Pasha recently declared: ' EGYPT's foreign policy is directed with a view to avoid war, but the Egyptian Government will not toterate any action by an Egyptian designed, to endanger in any way the military security of Our Ally (BRITAIN) or give cause for any anxiety to those now fighting for the very existence of Democracy and Freedom. That is my policy. I want our Ally to know this. I want the troops of our Ally to know this at a time when they are facing the utmost hardships in the field, in defence of the cause of Truth and Justice'. The voice of Nahas Pasha is the voice of the Wafd and the voice of the Wafd is the voice of EGYPT. The Wafd is a peoples' party comprising all sections—the *fellah* (peasant), the labourer, the artisan, the student, and the landlord; and has a parliamentary majority of 216 in a House of 264 deputies.

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THE ANGLO-EGYPTIAN TREATY which was signed during an earlier crisis which arose when ITALY invaded ABYSSINIA, it is true, does not require EGYPT's participation in war, in aid of BRITAIN; it only states that 'should either of the High Contracting Parties become engaged in war, the other High Contracting Party will immediately come to his aid in the capacity of an Ally. The aid of H. M. the King of EGYPT will consist in furnishing H. M. the King Emperor on Egyptian terriotory all the facilities and assistance in his power, including the use of his ports, aerodromes, and means of communication.' In other words, while EGYPT will not be required to bring her own forces into the field, she will be expected to render every facility to British forces, while they are on Egyptian soil or in Egyptian waters. This pact has been solemnly kept on either side: BRITAIN has not sought the assistance of any Egyptian forces; EGYPT continues to be non-belligerent. But while she has not declared war, she has broken off diplomatic relations with the Axis. In letter as well as in spirit, she faithfully carries out her treaty obligations to the British armed forces in her soil. And BRITAIN does not expect more. To her a non-belligerent EGYPT is of greater help than EGYPT as a fighting ally.

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SIEGE WARFARE. The fall of SEBASTOPOL, during the week following the earlier collapse of TOBRUK and

SINGAPORE naturally raises the question of the value of fortresses in modern warfare. Judged by present results these fortifications, like mediaeval castles would seem to have survived their days of utility, at any rate to be no longer impregnable. Time was when a castle could hold on for years and opened its gates only to avoid starvation; but with the coming of modern artillery, it went out of date. Similarly the weight of metal that would now be hurled from land and air in modern warfare is making fortifications obsolete, at least, vulnerable. Their value now consists largely in gaining certain strategic advantages, such as immobilising large enemy forces. taking a huge toll of lives, besides, and delaying the enemy's advance. All these honours SEBASTOPOL may well claim; SEBASTOPOL has cost the enemy a hundred thousand lives at least and engaged ten German divisions, almost the whole of the Rumanian army, a thousand planes and much artillery. It has upset the time-table of a spring offensive and delayed the planned advance on the CAUCASUS.

As fortresses go, SEBASTOPOL, TOBRUK and SINGAPORE differ in their defences. SABASTOPOL and TOBRUK are both land and sea fortresses; and SINGAPORE only a sea-fortress. Again, both SEBASTOPOL and TOBRUK had the advantage of their natural strength; in SEBASTOPOL its hills have been fortified above and honeycombed below for shelters, by long and arduous preparation; in TOBRUK these advantages, though they existed, were only improvisations. SINGAPORE island with its open country had its best defence only on the sea; her land defence lay back in MALAYA and even shelters could not be excavated owing to the water-level. SEBASTOPOL fell, in 1854, attacked from the sea and has now fallen to an attack from land. SINGAPORE also succumbed to a land attack. MALTA holds on, because it is reinforced by BRITAIN's sea-power. SEBASTOPOL fell because her sea communications were weak. Yet she has written one of the most glorious chapters in siege history by her heroic stand for months.

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FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF CHINA'S WAR OF RESISTANCE.

On July 7, CHINA entered on the 6th year of her struggle and celebrated the 5th anniversary of her war of resistance. Looking back at the events of the period one is struck with wonderment at the resistance, mainly moral and spiritual which has sustained her through the most critical years of her history. Opposed to an inhuman foe, armed with every weapon that Science could supply and factories could forge, unfriended for the most part, CHINA fought on and has survived, simultaneously consolidating her strength by a process of reconstruction—educational, industrial and social. All honour to 'the peasant's son'—Chiang Kai-Shek and his consort who led their people in these

trying days 'through the terrible ordeals of bombings, mass murder, hunger and maltreatment of women'. The Japanese 'incident', which, let it be said in passing, has already inflicted 2,500,000 casualties on the Japanese, including 1,000,000 killed, has now assumed the dimensions of a world war. War, whether in EUROPE, or the MIDDLE-EAST or the FAR-EAST has but one battle-cry now—'Down with aggression'—and but one slogan—'Down with the Axis'. In this world war CHINA will no longer stand alone. Battered though for 5 years, CHINA has grown stronger than ever—Listen to Marshal Chiang Kai-Shek's message on the Day of Fifth Anniversary Celebration:—

'We have become the vanguard of the forces opposing aggression'.

'China will shoulder the responsibility of the main battle on the eastern continent.'

THE PLANES ARE COMING.

"We must increase our production rate of air planes so rapidly that in this year, 1942, we shall produce 60,000 planes, 10,000 more than the goal set a year and a half ago. This includes 45,000 combat planes—bombers, dive-bombers and pursuit planes. The rate of increase will be continued, so that next year 1943, we shall produce 125,000 air planes, including 100,000 combat planes.

—Franklin D. Roosevelt, January 6, 1942.

When President Roosevelt delivered this message to the Congress of the United States, less than a month after Japan had attacked at Pearl Harbour, it constituted the greatest challenge ever flung to American industry.

To-day, only a few months after the President's message, production schedules are not only being met, they are being surpassed. By mid-February the aircraft industry as a whole was producing planes at a rate four times as great as in 1941.

What is this American aircraft industry—this vast complex of intricate operations, sprawling over the American continent from ocean to ocean?

A MILLION SKILLED CRAFTSMEN.

It is a million skilled craftsmen employed night and day, along a hundred miles of assembly lines, in a hundred of the nation's industrial centres.

It is another million men working in the huge engine factories, in the propeller plants; producing bombsights, navigation instruments, guns, armour, bearings, wood, aluminium, steel.

It is the glowing electric furnaces in the aluminium plants, the thundering steel forges, the rivets hammering into the armour of a bomber, the sparks flying from a fuselage welder's gun.

Most of all it is the determined man-power of America—the thousands who crowd the factory gates with the changing shifts—the men whose deft hands turn bits of metal into powerful engines, in buzzing plants from New England to California.

DETROIT'S CHANGED ROLE.

Detroit, Michigan, capital of the world's automobile industry in times of peace, is now the hub of the American war effort. Production of private automobiles has ceased. The conversion to war production has been made complete.

This is true at Henry Ford's vast plants, which turned out 10,045,527 automobiles before abandoning civilian production. As the last automobile left the vast sheds housing the Ford enterprise, a war machine trundled after it on the production line. In a new Ford plant covering several hundred acres of ground, 65,000 workers under one roof were already at work turning out heavy bombers.

Here, sheets of aluminium the size of a box-car are rolled under huge presses which mould them to the rough form of a bomber fuselage. In endless procession the unfinished bodies course through a lane swarming with workers, each with his appointed task.

TAKING SHAPE.

Far down the line the wings are added, and the huge metal bodies begin to look like planes; the giant motors are embedded in the wing nacelles; huge four-bladed propellers are fixed in position. In a camouflage of war paint the bombers roll out, in an unending stream, to be tested and flown away.

This is a picture of but one plant. It is more than duplicated by the huge new aircraft plants in other parts of the nation.

Yes, the planes are coming. And as the thunder of their engines rolls across the skies, the men to fly them are being trained—speedily, thoroughly, and in unprecedented numbers.

To man its vast winged armada, the United States Army Air Force will have a personnel of 2,000,000, equal to three-fifths of the total population of Norway. At least 150,000 of these will be combat pilots. Half of them will be in service by the end of 1942. In addition, the Navy plans to train 30,000 naval air cadets annually.

FINE RESPONSE.

Within a few hours after the United States was attacked, 700 men applied for enlistment in the Army Air Corps in a single city. Across the land, the response was identical. They came from the campus, from the farms and factories, from all levels of society. They came with the mechanical skills of America's civilization on wheels and wings.

For years these boys have been building and flying their own model planes, including the engines to power them. Every American boy is at home in the intricacies of the gasoline engine and the navigator's chart. Vigorous, athletic, daring, adventurous—this is an air-minded generation that is manning the nation's aerial armada.

The United States has the planes, it has the men to fly them. They are the machines and the men who are spelling out aerial supremacy for the United Nations—the eagles of victory for freedom.

GERMAN TRUST IN HITLER TOPPLING.

by

An American from Germany.

(*With acknowledgments to The Illustrated Weekly of India*).

Throughout Germany to-day there is a hush-hush of suspicion. No longer does the Nazi regime carry weight in every quarter. So great is the open grumbling in the larger cities that the mayors and schoolmasters are being relieved of their jobs, and the military is taking over the social services, including A. R. P. in the heavily bombed cities. Hitler foresaw the need for this, so that the military could be in full charge if the population became unruly.

Even Munich, that city beloved of Hitler, has changed apace these last few days. The glory has gone out of war now. Food becomes less and less and more adulterated. The people were promised the war would be over by now—and it isn't. They want to know why. Instead Hitler has gone on to Russia and speaks about better conditions in 1942.

" We've already lost the war," a bulky German business man said to me, as we met by appointment to do business—if possible. " We've given our sons to the army and our daughters to the armament factories. And we've given our money—or they've taken it! And now our homes are going up in smoke as we hide in the air-raid shelters."

I looked up at the admission.

" But look at the scalps you've got tucked under your belt," I bounced. " Why, you have overrun all Europe nearly".

" We've overrun ourselves—or Hitler has!" he argued. " And now the people are beginning to rear up in protest at the damage to the Fatherland, the Nazis have sacked about eighty per cent. of the mayors and replaced them with military chiefs. It's the same in the schools. The teachers are being replaced by military agents."

I pricked up my ears at this. It was certainly something that had escaped me. Now I began to understand why Munich, Cologne, Berlin, and all the rest of the big cities appeared so gloomy.

"What do the military know about schools and school teaching?" I asked somewhat perplexed.

"What indeed?" my companion acknowledged. "Under the Nazi régime education is second to the army. And now they have put the military in the schools because the teachers weren't preaching Germany victorious as much as they should have done. The military school teachers will buoy up the children's spirits with a lot of lies, of course."

I shook my head wonderingly.

"Well," I answered, "and what about the mayors that have been displaced?"

"It's the same with them," Fritz admitted. "Many of the mayors agree with the people that it's time the war ended. It's meant the end of their job, of course. But they have had the courage of their convictions. They have spoken out. They have stood by the people, anyhow."

BERLIN'S MAYOR VANISHES!

A few days later I was in Berlin on business. There I found the military in charge of affairs. Where the mayor went nobody knew. He just disappeared. And in the schools the teachers who failed to preach victorious Nazism on an empty stomach were being drafted into the army, their places to be taken by the military.

"A nice thing this," a business friend remarked when I asked how his son was getting on at school. "He is going backward instead of forward. They do few lessons nowadays. Spend most of their time drilling like the army, and hearing all about war manoeuvres and map-making and reading. You can't even think too loud, much less talk!"

I knew this to be the case. But it was not often you heard a German admitting as much—until now. At one time they just obeyed every order blindly, trusting it was for the best. Now they know it is not so, this open grumbling is growing with snowball rapidity.

A man in a high social position has only to make one mistake to be relieved of his job—by the military. And in such cases that man is marked for life, as it were. The Gestapo watch him at every turn. Then if they can't really bring a charge against him, they invent one. And the word of

the Gestapo is taken before a private individual's. no matter how many witnesses he may have on his side. The military always win.

STRIKING EXAMPLE.

"See that man over there?" a German business man remarked as we stood not far from the Unter den Linden one day. "He used to be a social high-light in Berlin before the war. No telling how many million marks he's given away to the poor and needy. Now he needs helping himself!"

I looked in the direction indicated, and saw a worn, decrepit fellow swathed in a torn and battered suit several sizes too large for him. His whiskers were down to his first waistcoat button, and the haggard look in his eyes haunts me even to this day.

When he had passed by, my friend resumed the conversation.

"He was once a professor at the leading college of physicians here. When he didn't bung the Nazi principles into his students as he should have done they warned him and gave him another chance. He still refused to betray his trust. That was six months ago, and since then he's done hard labour in two concentration camps. He says he'll come into his own some day. But he never will. The Nazis will see to that."

"Well," I said, "and did they find another professor to put in his place—one with Nazi tendencies?"

My friend laughed scornfully.

"Did they—what? They put a military officer into his job—a military officer to lecture to medical students. Why, the fellow couldn't cut a loaf of bread straight, let alone perform an operation on anybody. No wonder German doctors aren't what they were."

There is no doubt the rank and file that go to make up the big German cities are becoming more uneasy every day as to the ultimate outcome of Hitler's masquerading right across Europe, while the people in the Fatherland are left to eke out a miserable existence.

But the point I want to drive home is this. Hitler well knows the grumbling that is going on. He realises the coming danger so well that all high offices are being filled by trusted Nazi militarists. When the worst comes to the worst, those high officials will know how to deal with an uprising—quickly.

And while the militarists are quelling infuriated mobs, Hitler and few of his henchman will "have flown." There are still—Sweden and Switzerland!

JAP AIR STRATEGY

(*With acknowledgments to the Illustrated Weekly of India*).

No Comparison With Nazi Methods

by

Kenneth Bindoff

IT'S THE METHOD THAT MATTERS

Bombs are much the same the world over, but the method of delivery varies greatly according to the nationality of the aircraft which drops them—as I discovered in England during the Battle of Britain, and later in Malaya while the struggle for possession of Singapore was in progress.

The Japanese have always had a reputation for being good imitators, but the air offensive which they are waging at present has plenty of originality about it, and affords further overwhelming proof—if any be required—of the amount of planning and forethought which they have put into the Pacific war.

The considerations governing air strategy may be grouped under four headings: (1) Choice of target; (2) method of attack; (3) type of formation employed; (4) time (i. e. day or night).

In the selection of a target the air commander has three possibilities. He can confine himself to objectives of a strictly military character, such as guns, fortifications, warships, airfields, etc. He can make an *indirect* attack on the civilian population by the destruction of transport facilities, food supply lanes, gas, water, and electricity undertakings, and other vital services. Or he can take *direct* aim at the civilian population by a campaign of indiscriminate bombing, calculated to create panic and break down morale.

How do German and Japanese methods compare so far as air strategy is concerned? The answer is that they do not.

From the very earliest days of the *Luftwaffe's* offensive against Britain Nazi pilots adopted the line of least resistance, choosing to blast residential districts, hospitals, and even churches, rather than face the opposition from ground defences to be expected over military targets.

The Japanese, by contrast, display great tenacity in pressing home attacks against objectives of an important character, even in the face of the fiercest ground opposition.

Over Singapore island I saw a well-placed A. A. shell score a direct hit on a bomber flying in formation. The shell must have touched the bomb racks, for not only the aircraft concerned, but the two heavy bombers on either side, disintegrated in a blinding flash. The force of the explosion caused the remaining aircraft to rock like ships in a gale, but they closed their ranks and flew on to attack their objective.

HEIGHT AND NUMBERS

The Germans launched their attacks on Britain with the needles of their altitude metres flickering about the 14,000 ft. mark. The Japanese, perhaps because they have more confidence in their bomb sights, are more aloof, and the bombs which crashed down on Malaya fell 22,000 feet or more.

With dive-bombers the Germans sent a large number of aircraft (often between 60 and 80) against one objective at one time. The Japanese favour policy of dispersal, and use their dive-bombers singly or in pairs against land targets, attacking a number of objectives simaltaneously, and returning time after time in the hope of wearing down the defenders.

The same tendency to spread their r esources is evident with the Japanese in the matter of formations. The air raid sirens in Malaya always heralded the approach of a varying number of formations of bombers, each consisting of nine aircraft.

The Germans derived great comfort from numbers, and always endeavoured to pack as many aircraft as possible into one part of the sky. Perhaps they hoped to over-awe the British man-in-the-street with those aerial sardine-tin demonstrations and it must be admitted that a few hundred Nazi aircraft in one epidemic is not a pleasant sight—but then a Nazi rarely is a pleasant sight.

TIME FACTOR

A further contrast between German and Japanese methods is evident when the time factor is considered.

When Hitler's flying louts first winged their way to Britain, they appeared as tiny silver specks in a bright blue sky. Fortunately, brighter and better silver specks were waiting for them, and very soon the Nazi airmen, like the remainder of their régime, became creatures of darkness.

During the first few weeks of the war in Malaya the Japanese visited Singapore only at night, and it was not until they had satisfied themselves of their temporary air superiority that they ventured aloft in daylight—an

indication that Nippon and the Nazis have one thing in common: a healthy respect for Spitfires and Hurricanes. After Colombo, it is probable that this respect has been increased, and any future daylight attacks on this country are likely to be tempered by extreme caution.

These contrasts are interesting, not only to Service personnel, who will be responsible for air operations if India is directly attacked, but also to A.R.P. workers. **I notice that the vast majority of A. R. P. measures in India are based on lessons learned in London, and, while there is no better school, it is as well to bear in mind that different enemies may require modified defence measures.**

Mr. CHURCHILL'S REPLY TO HIS CRITICS.

["So far as the central direction of the war is concerned I can plead that we have not failed in the exertion we have made or in the energy shown."

"In spite of our losses in Asia, our defeats in Libya and increasing sinkings off the American coast the general strength and prospects of the United Nations had improved since the beginning of the year."]

UNBRIDLED DEMOCRATIC FREEDOM.

What a remarkable example it has been of the unbridled freedom of our parliamentary institutions in time of war! Everything that can be thought of, or raked up, has been used to weaken confidence in the Government, has been used to prove that the Ministers are incompetent, and to weaken their confidence in themselves, to make the Army distrust the backing it is getting from the civil power, to make workmen lose their confidence in the weapons they are striving so hard to make; also to represent the Government as a set of non-entities over which the Prime Minister towers, and then to undermine him in his own heart, and, if possible, before the eyes of the nation.

All this is poured out by cable and radio to all parts of the world to the distress of all our friends, and the delight of our foes.

I am in favour of this freedom which no other country or House would dare use in time of mortal peril.

I confess I find it very difficult to concentrate my thoughts upon this debate, and withdraw them from the tremendous and most critical battle now raging in Egypt. At any moment, we may receive news of grave importance.

ALLIED OFFENSIVE.

Mr. Hore-Belisha has accused me of making mis-statements. He dwelt mainly on the offensive started in Libya eight months ago. This offensive was not a failure. Our armies took 40,000 prisoners, drove the enemy back 400 miles, and took the great fortified positions on which he had rested so long. They drove him to the very edge of Cyrenaica, and it was only when his tanks had been reduced to 70 or 80 that, by brilliant tactical resurgence, the German General set in motion a series of events which led to our retirement 150 miles or more further to the west than our offensive had started from.

Ten thousand Germans were captured in that fight.

I am not prepared to regard that action as other than highly creditable and highly profitable to the Army in the Western Desert.

CHANGED SITUATION.

Military misfortunes during the fortnight in Cyrenaica and Egypt had completely transformed the situation, not only in that area but throughout the Mediterranean.

We lost upwards of 50,000 men, by far the larger number of them are prisoners, and, despite a deal of demolition, large quantities of stores had fallen into enemy hands. Tho evil effects in Turkey, Spain, France and French North Africa of Rommel's advance could not yet be measured.

We are, at this moment, in the presence of a recession of our hopes, and prospects in the Middle East and the Mediterranean, unequalled since the fall of France.

TOBRUK.

A telegram received before its capture from General Auchinleck, Commander-in-Chief of the Allied forces in the Middle East, said that an adequate garrison had been allotted, the defences were in good order, and 90 days' supplies were available for the troops.

It was hoped we could hold the very strong frontier positions, which had been built by the Germans and improved by ourselves at Sollum and Halfaya.

General Auchinleck expected to mainfain this position until powerful reinforcements, which were approaching, enabled him to make a large stroke, and seize the initiative with a counter-offensive. The decision to hold Tobruk and the dispositions made was taken by General Auchinleck. The War Cabinet and our professional advisers agreed with General Auchinleck beforehand.

Although, in practical matters, the Commander-in-Chief in a war theatre is supreme, and his decision final, we considered that if he was wrong, we were wrong too. I am very ready, on behalf of the Government to take my full share of responsibility.

COMMANDER'S DECISION.

The decision for capitulation at Tobruk was taken by the Commander of the fortress, and was most unexpected.

In this particular case, the bond of comradeship between all men at the top was actually strengthened.

I do not think any public man, charged with a high mission from Britain, was ever so barracked from his homeland.

Only my unshakable confidence in the ties which bind me to the mass of the British people, upheld me in those days.

WASHINGTON TALKS

Speaking of my American mission the conversations were concerned with almost nothing but movements of troops, ships, guns, and aircraft, and with the measures to be taken to combat the losses at sea, and replace, and more than replace, the sunken tonnage.

I have nothing to tell the House about the mission except that the two great English-speaking nations were never closer together than they were, never more earnest in their desire to engage the enemy, or more wholehearted in their resolve to run all risks, and make all sacrifices, to wage this hard war with vigour, and carry it to a successful conclusion.

Strenuous measures were being taken to curtail shipping losses. These combined with the great shipbuilding efforts of the United States and the British Empire, should result in a substantial gain in tonnage at the end of 1943 and above that which we now possess, if— as I cannot believe—the rate of losses is not substantially reduced.

FALL OF TOBRUK.

I do not want to say anything that can be twisted, with the utmost ingenuity of malice, into reflection on our commanders in the field, still less on the gallant men they lead.

When I arrived in the United States, and went to the President's room on June 21, I was shocked on being confronted with the report that Tobruk had fallen.

I hope the House would realise what a bitter pang it was to me. What made worse the aggravation, in the following days, was to read the accounts of the feeling in Great Britain and the Commons.

Yet one of the most painful parts in this battle has been that, in its opening stages, we were defeated under conditions that gave good and reasonable expectation of success.

GALLANT MALTA.

There has never been any case, in this war, of successful defence against superior air power being made by aircraft with only two or three airfields to work from. Malta is the first exception—at one time they were worn down to no more than a dozen fighters.

Malta is now stronger in aircraft than ever before. The enemy did not get Malta, but got a lot of stuff across to Africa.

BATTLE OF LIBYA.

We had superiority in numbers of tanks of, perhaps, seven to five, and in artillery of nearly eight to five. These included several regiments with the latest form of Gun Howitzer, which throws a 55-pound shell 20,000 yards.

The Allied army enjoyed throughout the battle, and enjoys to-day, air superiority. The Allied offensive would have been undertaken in the early days of June, if the enemy had not struck first.

When his preparations for attack became visible, it was decided to await the attack in our fortified positions, and deliver a counter-stroke in the greatest possible strength.

Such was the position on May 26, when Rommel made his first onslaught. It is not possible for me to give any final account of the battle, and hasty judgment would be more exciting than true. The main features, however, may be discerned. Rommel had expected to take Tobruk in the first few days. The reception he got deranged his plans, and heavy losses in armour were sustained by both sides. However he held tenaciously to the inroads he had made, and we were so mauled in the struggle that no effective counter-stroke could be delivered.

On June 4, however, an attempt was made, but this was repulsed by a counter-attack, with heavy losses in artillery. The battle then centred round Bir Hakheim, where it was decided to withdraw the garrison, though with heavy loss.

A TURNING POINT.

That, no doubt, was the turning point of the battle. Whether anything more could have been done, we cannot tell. Certainly Rommel and his army pushed on unflaggingly day after day. For another five days, fighting occurred around the Knightsbridge and Acroma positions. By June 13, the battle was equal, but on June 13 there came a change.

That morning, we had about 300 tanks, by nightfall not more than 70 remained, excluding light Stuart tanks, and this happened without any corresponding loss having been inflicted on the enemy.

I do not know what happened in the fighting that day. I am only concerned to give the facts, and it is for the House to decide whether these facts resulted from the central direction of the war, or from the terrible hazards and unforeseeable instances of battle.

With this disproportionate destruction of our armour, Rommel became decisively stronger

Then came the decision to withdraw from the Gazala position, and the decision to hold Tobruk and the Halfaya-Capuzzo-Sollum fortified line.

MERSA MATRUH.

I have already recounted the fall of Tobruk, and this entailed the withdrawal from the Sollum-Halfaya line to the Mersa Matruh position, which placed 125 miles of waterless desert between the Eighth Army and its foes.

Most authorities expected that ten days or a fortnight would have been gained by us. However, on the fifth day, June 26 Rommel presented himself and his armour and motorised forces in front of this new position. The battle was joined on June 27 and, for the first time our whole army, which was heavily reinforced, was engaged altogether at one time. Altogether we considered we inflicted very heavy damage on the enemy.

The advance of the German light divisions, together with the remainder of the Panzer corps of 100 to 150 heavily armed tanks, led to our further retirement, owing to the destruction of our armour. I am not in a position to tell the House about the reinforcements which have reached the Eighth Army or are approaching it, except that they are very considerable, but I will go so far as to say that we do not regard the struggle as in any way decided.

THREAT TO INDIA.

Several important units of British troops had to go to India, which, a little while ago, seemed threatened by invasion. Other forces in India about to proceed to the Middle East had to be retained there.

Extreme exertions have been made by his Majesty's Government during the last two years to strengthen the army in the Middle East. There have gone from this country, from the Empire overseas and the United States more than 950,000 men 4,500 tanks, 6,000 aircraft, nearly 5,000 pieces of artillery, 50,000 machine guns and over 100,000 mechanical vehicles.

Britain had to keep thousands of armoured vehicles with which to beat the enemy off the beaches if they landed. The first new

tanks had grievous difficulties. Although there was undoubted delay, it is wrong to disparage the Matilda cruiser and Valentine tanks. They have rendered great service. In Russia the Valentine is highly-rated. We have sent 4,500 tanks to the Nile Valley, and over 20,000 tanks to Russia, and the Russians are using them against German armour with vigour and effect.

DIVE-BOMBERS.

Most of leading Air Marshals think little of the dive-bomber, and we are entitled to respect their opinion. It was from that source that the eight-gun fighter was designed, which destroyed so many dive-bombers in the Battle of British.

There was no doubt whatever that the Army desired dive-bombers, and, nearly two years ago, orders were placed for them. They had not come to hand in any numbers yet. There was a tendency to disparage the bomber; I think it a very great mistake, because there is no doubt that this bomber offensive against the Germans is one of the most powerful means we have of carrying an offensive war into Germany.

We did not like it when the blitzes were on. The Germans know that this attack is not going to get weaker, but continually stronger, taking the strain off our Allies and hampering building and construction of submarines and other weapons.

NO INTERFERENCE.

I did not interfere in the technical handling of the armies in contact with the enemy.

Before the battle began I urged on Gen. Auchinleck to take the command himself as I thought nothing was going to happen in the vast area of the Middle East in the next month or two comparable to this battle in the desert. He gave me very good reasons for not doing so and Gen. Ritchie fought the battle. Gen. Auchinleck, on June 25, superseded Gen. Ritchie, and we at once approved of his decision. Government should stand as a strong bulk-head between the Commanders in the field and all forms of criticism. They should have one chance and more than one chance.

You cannot get Generals to run risks unless they feel they have behind them a strong Government, and have no need to look over their shoulders and worry about what is happening at home. You cannot get the Government to run risks unless they have behind them a loyal and solid majority.

TRUST AUCHINLECK.

Gen. Auchinleck is in command of the battle. It is raging with great intensity. We have assured this General of our confidence. I believe it will be found that this confidence has not been misplaced.

I repudiate the suggestion that I misled the House. I will say nothing more about the future except to invite the House and the Nation to face with courage whatever it may unfold.

I have never shared the view that this would be a short war. It is far more likely to be a long one. There is no reason to suppose that the war will stop when the result becomes obvious.

RUSSIAN RESISTANCE.

An outstanding feature is the steady resistance of Russia to the invaders of her soil, and the fact that, now, more than half way through the summer, no major offensive has been opened by Hitler on Russia, unless he calls the present attacks on Kharkov and Kursk a major offensive.

The Russian Government, and the nation, welded by ties of blood, sacrifice and faith to the English-speaking democracies of the West, will continue to wage war, steadfast, stubborn and invincible.

All I know is that the Russians have surprised Hitler. I believe they will surprise him again. Whatever happens, they will fight on to death or victory.

This is a cardinal fact at this time. The great fact is the growth of air power on the side of the Allies. It is proceeding with immense rapidity.

Hitler made a contract with the demon of the air, but the target ran out before the job was done, and the demon has taken on an engagement with the rival firm.

THE FAR EAST.

For the last six months our convoys to the East have grown. Every month about 60,000 men with the best of equipment have rounded the Cape.

Some months back Australia feared that an invasion was imminent. British forces would have gone to her aid irrespective of the Middle East. I have never thought that Australia would be invaded by Japan in the present year. With a large American army there, and in the islands across the Pacific, I was confident that a mass invasion of Australia would be a hazardous and unprofitable operation for Japan.

The Allies' watchword throughout the whole of the south-west Pacific is now 'attack'.

India has now been strongly reinforced. A far larger army of Britons and Indians stands under Gen. Wavell than ever before in the history of the British connexion with India. Ceylon, which, at one time, seemed in great jeopardy, is now strongly defended by naval, air and military forces.

We have secured a protective naval base in Madagascar. The balance of naval power in the Pacific has been definitely altered in our favour.

TO DESTROY ROMMEL.

This relief at any rate for some months to come in the Australian and Indian theatres has enabled important forces to be directed on Egypt.

These, with the lateness of the season already attained have enabled us to concentrate our efforts on the destruction of Rommel's army.

At this moment the struggle in Egypt is approaching its full intensity. The battle is now in the balance, and it is an action of the highest consequence.

We have one object and one object only—the destruction of the enemy's arms, and armoured power grips our resolve. Important aid is on the way both from Britain and the United States.

NO MIDDLE COURSE.

After all, we are still fighting for our lives. We have no right to assume that victory is certain. It will be certain if we do not fail in our duty.

The duty of the House is to sustain or change the Government. If it cannot change it should sustain. There is no middle course in war time.

I trust the opinion of the over-whelming majority of the House will be made plain, not only in the division but in the days following, and the weaker brethren will not be allowed to usurp and almost monopolise the proud authority of the House of Commons.

There is an agitation to deprive me of the function I exercise in the general conduct and supervision of the war. I am your servant. You have the right to dismiss me. What you have no right to do is to ask me to bear responsibility without the power of effective action.

A DICTATORSHIP ?

Sir John Wardlaw-Milne has proposed that I should be stripped of my responsibilities for Defence, in order that some military figure or other unnamed personage, should assume the general conduct of the war, have complete control over the armed forces, be the Chief of the Chiefs of Staff Committee, nominate or dismiss Generals or Admirals, and that he should always be ready to resign, that is to say, match himself against his political colleagues if he did not get all he wanted, and that he should have under him a Royal Duke as Commander-in-Chief of the Army, and, finally, I presume, this unnamed personage should find an appendage in the Prime Minister to make the necessary explanations, excuses and apologies to Parliament when things go wrong as they do, and often will.

This is a system very different from the parliamentary system under which we live. It might easily amount to or be converted into dictatorship.

I should take no part in such a system. If those who have assailed us are reduced to contemptible proportions, if the vote of censure on the National Government is converted into a vote of censure on its authors then, make no mistake, a cheer will go up from every friend of Britain and every faithful servant to our cause and the death knell of disappointment will ring in the ears of the tyrants we strive to overthrow.

[NOTE :—Sir John Wardlaw-Milne's motion of no confidence in the central prosecution of the war by Mr. Churchill's Coalition Government *was defeated by 475 to 25 votes.*]

JOIN THE A. R. P.

For one building destroyed by bombs 3 buildings are lost through negligence.

That is the story of many streets in many cities to-day. Bombs start fires, fires spread, and in many cases a fire begun in one building has led to the destruction of an entire district.

Fires started by bombs are far beyond the capacity of ordinary fire-brigade organizations. But with organized A. R. P. Services, damage is minimised, fire localized. The trapped are rescued, the wounded succoured. Wreckage and débris are cleared, communications and order restored.

To help to defend their cities is the responsibility of civilians. To aid their helpless neighbours, to relieve pain and save life, is a first charge on every good citizen. The work that you do now, remember, is an insurance against future disaster—disaster to your own property and family.

What has happened in other cities may happen here.

ISOLATED DAMAGE OR WIDESPREAD DEVASTATION?

What makes the difference ? *The answer is A. R. P.—and only* A. R. P. ! Fires started by bombs, though far beyond the capacity of ordinary fire-brigades, are quickly controlled and extinguished by organised A.R.P. Services. And not only do A. R. P. Services localize fire and minimise damage to property They rescue men, women and children from death traps. They give treatment and blessed relief to the wounded. They ensure maintenance of essential services and keep open communications. They clear débris and wreckage. They bring order out of chaos

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State National War Front Bureau.

1942—

LECTURE CIII—(*Batch 5*).

July	...12, Sunday ...	Tiruvarangulam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Vamban ...	6.30 p. m.
	13, Monday ...	Malaikkudippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Tulaiyanur ...	6.30 p. m.
	14, Tuesday ...	Kulavoippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilaiyur (South) ...	6.30 p. m.
	15, Wednesday.	Vellanur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Sembattur ...	6.30 p. m.
	16, Thursday ...	Pallivasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Pillamangalam ...	6.30 p. m.
	17, Friday ...	Puliyur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kannangudi ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE CIV—(*Batch 1*).

18, Saturday ...	Municipal Office ...	6.45 p. m.
19, Sunday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.	5.30 p. m.
	Puvarasakudi ...	6.00 p. m.
	Venkatakulam ...	6.30 p. m.
20, Monday ...	Tirumayyam ...	6.00 p. m.
	Melur ...	6.30 p. m.
21, Tuesday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
	Perungalur ...	6.00 p. m.
	Adanakkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
22, Wednesday.	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
	College Tamil (Branch School)	10.15 a. m.
	Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
	Arimalam ...	6.00 p. m.
	Kilanilaikkottai ...	6.30 p. m.
23, Thursday ...	Udayalippatti ...	6.00 p. m.
	Killukottai ...	6.30 p. m.
24 Friday ...	Malampatti ...	6.00 p. m.
	Parambur ...	6.30 p. m.

Sri Brihadamba State Press, Pudukkottai. 1,000—12-7-42.